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The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Letter dated 22 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Declaration of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted at the meeting held in Yalta, Ukraine, on 18 August 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 61 (b) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yel'chenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Heads of State of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

[Original: Russian]

On 18 August 2000, a meeting of the heads of State of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine was held in Yalta. Questions relating to the holding of the Millennium Summit and Assembly and the impact of the processes of globalization and integration on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) were discussed in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

On the eve of the important events in the history of the United Nations, the heads of State note the growing desire of the international community to build a stable and secure world free of wars and violence, in which the prosperity of States and peoples and the free development of every individual will be ensured.

This multifaceted task will have to be addressed against the background of the growing influence of globalization on the political and economic development of humankind. In this context, the development of integration at the regional and subregional levels, which makes it possible to reap the benefits of globalization while eliminating its adverse effects, particularly in the economic and political spheres, is acquiring particular importance.

The heads of State are convinced that the deepening of multilateral and bilateral cooperation within CIS is in line with global trends at the threshold of the twenty-first century and meets the national interests of the States of the Commonwealth.

The countries members of CIS, as an integral part of the international community, are open to broad and constructive cooperation with all States in the search for an adequate response to the challenges of the time. Without collective efforts, it is impossible to deal with the serious risks that threaten the fundamental purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The heads of State believe that the Millennium Summit provides a unique opportunity to draw lessons from the experience of multilateral cooperation in the twentieth century and to outline ways of creating a multipolar world and strengthening the foundations of an effective system of global security. The forthcoming historic forum should clearly reaffirm the lasting significance of the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization's central role in the maintenance of international peace and security, and the importance of strengthening the foundations of international law.

Noting with satisfaction the broad consensus taking shape within the United Nations in favour of such an approach, the participants in the meeting support the inclusion in the final document of the Summit of the principles of multilateralism, equality and solidarity in addressing global problems, and the interests and needs of all the major groups, including countries with economies in transition.

The heads of State reaffirm their determination to contribute to the success of the Millennium Summit and Assembly and to the adoption of weighty political decisions that lead to the development of a new, democratic and equitable world order in the twenty-first century.